

EEO Advisory Committee Meets at AOML

AOML hosted a meeting of the Environmental Research Laboratories' (ERL) Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Advisory Committee on November 17-18, 1998. Delegates from all 12 ERL laboratories, ERL headquarters, and the Office of Atmospheric Research attended. Diversity issues and factors affecting the workplace, including the Demonstration Project (an experimental work performance and appraisal system) were topics for discussion and evaluation.

AOML Director Dr. Kristina Katsaros welcomed the Committee and reflected upon her own career EEO/diversity experiences. Howard Friedman and Evan Forde presented AOML achievements. Mary Langlais, OAR Executive Director, addressed the group and gave a clear message of support and encouragement to the Committee for dealing with sometimes difficult issues.

The Committee meets twice a year to evaluate EEO efforts and to consider EEO issues affecting the recruitment, hiring, promotion, and retention of minorities and women.



Here Come the Holidays



Staffers prepare AOML for the holidays by decorating a Christmas tree in the main lobby on December 1, 1998.

Here are a few events taking place at AOML to celebrate the holidays:

Holiday Party: AOML's annual holiday party was held in the lobby on Friday, December 4, 1998 at 1:30 p.m. Approximately 77 people dined on a holiday meal catered by Parties by Pat (a.k.a. Pat Molinari). Drawings for door prizes, including the "world's ugliest candlesticks," a sing along, and entertainment performed by AOML's Holiday Ensemble, under the musical direction of Jack Stamates, made for an enjoyable afternoon.



Hannukah Celebration: The eight days of Hannukah will be commemorated at AOML by the lighting of a menorrah in the lobby beginning on December 14, 1998.

Holiday Door Decorating Contest: AOML's annual holiday door decorating contest takes place on Wednesday, December 16, 1998 (see page 2 for more details).

AOML Hosts GAS EX-98 Workshop

Participants of the Gas Exchange Experiment (GAS EX-98) performed in the North Atlantic Ocean during May-June 1998 met to discuss and share results at an AOML-sponsored workshop on October 26-27, 1998.

GAS EX-98 brought together more than 50 scientists and technicians aboard the NOAA ship *Ronald H. Brown* to study air-sea carbon dioxide (CO₂) flux estimates. CO₂ estimates are critical to constrain the partitioning of fossil fuel carbon dioxide between the ocean and the terrestrial biosphere and to improve the ability to realistically model future atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.

The experiment included a comprehensive comparison between direct flux techniques and the more conventional water-side measurements. Preliminary results of the rich data set collected show that four independent methods of determining the gas flux (carbon dioxide gradient, carbon dioxide co-variance, dual deliberate tracer, and DMS gradient) produced comparable results. GAS EX-98 marked the first time that such measurements have been performed side-by-side. It is also the first time that the direct flux measurements are in accord with water column mass balance constraints.

The experiment was sponsored by the Ocean Atmosphere Carbon Exchange Study (OACES) of the Office of Global Programs. Several scientists from the Ocean Chemistry Division participated in the cruise, including George Berberian, Robert Castle, Kitack Lee, Rik Wanninkhof, Shari Yvon-Lewis, and Jia-Zhong Zhang.

Free Patches Available

Embroidered cloth patches commemorating AOML's Silver Anniversary (1973-1998) are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact Gail Derr to reserve a patch (305-361-4440 or derr@aoml.noaa.gov) or stop by her office (room 133) to pick one up.



AOML Annual Holiday Door Decorating Contest



DECEMBER 16, 1998

**Decorate your door with a holiday theme*
Prizes awarded for the best doors**

Judges:

Kristina Katsaros and George Berberian

*Gifts of chocolate, cheese, and other goodies
are known to help judges determine the winners*

*Decorations must be tasteful; doors must remain undamaged in the decorating process

1999 Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Committee Selected

A new panel of members has been selected to serve on AOML's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Committee (MWRC) for FY-1999. The Committee consists of a chairperson and a representative from each division. The purpose of the MWRC is to plan and organize morale-building events for the AOML community. Here are the FY-1999 MWRC members:

*Chairperson..... Ginger Garte
HRD Peter Dodge
OAD Carla Stephens
OCD Ginger Garte
OD Judy Gray and/or Greg Baner
PhOD Mayra Pazos*

If you have ideas or suggestions for an event you would like the MWRC to sponsor, please contact your Division representative.

Congratulations to the retiring FY-1998 MWRC members (Alejandra Lorenzo, chairperson, Terry Nelsen, Sam Houston, Yeun-Ho Daneshzadeh, and Linda Pikula) for a job well done.

*Keynotes can be viewed online in PDF format at the following
Internet web site address:
<http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/od/keynotes/keynotes.html>*

Welcome Aboard

Dr. Claudia Schmid joins the staff of the Physical Oceanography Division as a post-doctoral fellow to perform analysis of data from profiling drifter arrays in the tropical Atlantic Ocean.

Carolyn Chen joins the staff of the Office of the Director to assist with administrative computer programming tasks.

Travel

Rik Wanninkhof travelled to Paris, France on November 14-18, 1998 to give a presentation at the Laboratoire D'Océanographie Dynamique et du Climat (LODYC) on the results of the GAS EX-98 experiment. While in Paris, Dr. Wanninkhof also visited the Société d'Etude et de Réalisation de Protection Electronique-Informatique Electronique Sécurité Maritime (SERPE-IESM), the facility that built the CARIOCA pCO₂ buoy recently purchased by AOML, to discuss enhancements to the instrumented buoys.

Stanley Goldenberg will attend a meeting of the Fire Inspectors of Broward County in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on December 10, 1998 and present a lecture entitled "Hurricanes: Potential for Disaster."

Members of the Hurricane Research Division will attend the NOAA Hurricane Conference at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida on December 1-4, 1998.

AEROBICS CLASS

Monday • Wednesday • Friday
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
1st Floor Conference Room

The one-hour class is broken into a 25-minute segment of high-low interval training to elevate heart rate and burn calories and a 35-minute segment devoted to total body toning to firm muscles and target trouble spots.

For more information contact:

Ginger Garte
(305-361-4430 or
garte@aoml.noaa.gov)

Congratulations

Congratulations to Lorenzo Haynes on the birth of his third child, a healthy daughter, born Thursday, November 12, 1998 at 10:30 p.m. Cierrah Kimberly weighed in at 5 lbs., 11 oz. Baby, mother, father, brother, and sister, are doing just great!



1998 Atlantic Hurricane Season Officially Ends (Finally!)

November 30, 1998 marked the official last day of the 1998 Atlantic hurricane season, destined to go down in the recordbooks as the deadliest season in more than 200 years. Hurricanes Georges and Mitch, the season's giants, wreaked havoc across the Caribbean and Central America, plowing a path of destruction that caused the deaths of more than 12,000 people and leaving thousands of others homeless. Heavy rainfall resulting in massive flooding and mudslides is blamed for the high death toll, prompting researchers to begin focusing greater attention upon rainfall forecasting.

The 1998 season produced ten hurricanes and five tropical storms. In September, four hurricanes—Georges, Ivan, Jeanne, and Karl—churned in the Atlantic simultaneously, the first such occurrence since 1893. Seven of the named storms, including Georges and Mitch, affected the continental United States and caused billions in damage.

Dr. William Gray of Colorado State University and associates (including AOML's Chris Landsea) have published a verification report of the 1998 season on the world-wide web. The web report address is <http://tropical.atmos.colostate.edu/forecasts/>.

On December 4, 1998, Gray *et al.* will publish their extended range outlook for the 1999 hurricane season. Early predictions indicate another active season.

Open Season for Benefits

The 1999 Federal Employees Health Benefits open season is now in progress and will continue through December 14, 1998. During open season, any eligible employee who is not currently registered in a health plan may enroll, and any eligible enrollee may change from one plan or option to another. Brochures and comparison charts of health plans are on display in the lobby (behind Esther Barker's desk). Additional information about health benefits and plans can be obtained by visiting the Office of Personnel Management's web site at <http://www.opm.gov/insure>.

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) open season began on November 15, 1998 and will continue through January 31, 1999. During TSP open season, eligible employees may begin contributing, change the amount or percentage of TSP contributions, reallocate how future contributions are invested, or stop contributing to the TSP. Further information about the TSP can be found at <http://www.tsp.gov>.

Group Photo Reprints Available for Purchase

Eight by ten color reprints of the AOML group photograph taken outdoors on January 9, 1998 can be purchased for \$5.00. Contact George Berberian (305-361-4375 or berberian@aoml.noaa.gov) for more information or stop by his office (room 238) to purchase a reprint.

Keynotes is published monthly by the Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted prior to the last week of each month to ensure inclusion in the following month's edition. Please address all correspondence to Ms. Gail Derr, Office of the Director, 4301 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, FL 33149. Contributions may also be submitted by fax at (305) 361-4442 or by email (derr@aoml.noaa.gov).

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